Message Text

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ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 L-03 TRSE-00 EB-11 AID-20 DRC-01

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R 061000Z DEC 73 FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3863 INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

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RABAT FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, ECRP, TS

SUBJ: PL 480 TITLE I COMPLIANCE REPORTING

REF: (A) STATE 234740 (B) TUNIS 4314

1. AFTER REPEATED REQUESTS, EMBASSY JUST RECEIVED DIPLOMATIC NOTE NOVEMBER 30 FROM GOT RESPONDING TO OUR AUGUST NOTE MENTIONED REF (B). NOTE (BEING FORWARDED BY POUCH) ENCLOSES TABLE SHOWING ARRIVALS OF PL-480 TITLE I AND UMR VEGOIL DURING FY 72. THESE ARRIVALS TOTAL 35.4 MILLION KGS. WITH LAST PL 480 SHIPMENT ON JUNE 5, 1972. NOTATION AT BOTTOM OF TABLE STATES THAT TUNISIAN VEGOIL CONSUMPTION WAS 46.4 MILLION KGS. FOR ENTIRE FY 72. TUNISIAN OFFICIALS POINT OUT THAT IT THUS OBVIOUS THAT ALL PL 480 VEGOIL IMPORTED IN FY 72 WAS CONSUMED IN FY 72, ALTHOUGH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GIVE EXACT DATES PL 480 OIL CONSUMED SINCE THIS OIL MIXED WITH UMR AND LOCAL OLIVE OIL. IN VIEW OF LARGE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TITLE I ARRIVALS AND CONSUMPTION OF VEGOIL IN FY 72, EMBASSY PREPARED TO ACCEPT TUNISIAN RATIONALE. IN ANY EVENT, BECAUSE OF MIXING MENTIONED ABOVE, WE BELIEVE IT PROBABLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR TUNISIANS TO GIVE EXACT DATE.

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2. REGARDING SECOND PARA REF (A), EMBASSY BELIEVED IT

WOULD HAVE BEEN POLITICALLY UNDESIRABLE TO PRESS FOR COMPLIANCE REPORT REQUIREMENTS DURING US EMBARGO ON SOYBEAN OIL EXPORTS. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY RECOGNIZES THAT SIGNING OF AGREEMENT IN ITSELF COMMITS GOT TO PROVIDE THIS REPORT, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IRRITATING TO RAISE ISSUE BECAUSE OF USG SUSPENSION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF JUNE 1973 TITLE I AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, EMBASSY SENT SEVERAL CABLES ON VEGOIL SITUATION IN TUNIS, NOTABLY TUNIS 5110 WHICH POINTED OUT GOT HAD PURCHASED 20,000 TONS VEGOIL IN EUROPE WHICH WOULD APPLY AGAINST GLOBAL UMR. NOW THAT SHIPMENTS ARE BEGINNING, WE ARE REMINDING GOT OF COMPLIANCE REPORT OBLIGATION.

3. ANNUAL SELF-HELP REPORT (CERP 1222) DUE DEC. 1 WILL BE FORWARDED AS SOON AS INFORMATION REQUESTED BY USAID HAS BEEN OBTAINED FROM GOT. SEELYE

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